



Harbor nutrient TMDL decisions

Lipoti, Jill

to:

Jeff Gratz, Felix Locicero

11/19/2012 04:33 PM

Cc:

"Hirst, Barbara", "Siekerka, Michele", "Putnam, Michele"

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Jeff:

EPA has requested a formal response in a very short time frame on scenario assumptions for a task order to be authorized for an additional nutrient model run. Can we slow down just a bit? With all of the Superstorm Sandy work that is being done, we have not had time to focus on these issues.

But regardless of the diversion of staff to deal with Hurricane Sandy issues, the more fundamental issue is whether the task order for an additional model run should proceed at all. We have had discussions laying out some of our concerns with crafting one or more appropriate runs that would inform the path forward and have not reached consensus on this.

I believe that a better use of the remaining money would be to compile the model and files for conveyance to New Jersey and New York so that work can continue on this important water quality study beyond the life of the contract. We know that we have significant issues with the task order as proposed, even considering the options provided, and cannot endorse proceeding with it. We would prefer to discuss this and agree upon a path forward that will help us achieve improved water quality in the harbor.

These model runs would give us a "one time" answer. However, the assumptions will change based on community proposals for action. A more sustainable approach would be to get the model and the files, provide them to NY and NJ, so that we can perform model runs as various solutions are brought to use from the affected communities.

Is that possible?

Jill

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